

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. MODERATE — 0.5 miles. Trail 1 is a loop trail that begins between Family Cabins #6 and #14, loops through large native timber in McCormick’s Cove Nature Preserve and ends at the Entrance to the Family Cabin Area.
- 2. MODERATE — 1.0 miles. Trail 2 begins behind the CCC Recreation Hall and ventures into McCormick’s Cove Nature Preserve and ends between Family Cabin #6 and #11. Trail 2 also offers access to the Quarry Loop Trail for observation of the Old State House Quarry.
- 3. RUGGED — 0.8 miles. Trail 3 is a loop trail that begins across from Canyon Inn and offers access to the falls and canyon before ending at Stoney Restroom. There are no bridges crossing the creek. Fluctuating creek levels may make areas of the trail seasonably inaccessible.
- 4. MODERATE — 1.4 miles. Trail 4 begins behind the Canyon Inn Pool and travels toward the Recreation Field, McCormick’s Cove Nature Preserve and the CCC Firetower. Trail 4 ends on the road near Canyon Inn.
- 5. MODERATE — 2.0 miles. Trail 5 is a loop trail that begins at the Wolf Cave Parking Area, enters Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, loops through a Beech-Maple forest, crosses Litten Branch, and offers access to Wolf Cave before ending near the Wolf Cave Parking lot.
- 6. EASY — 0.6 miles. Trail 6 begins beside Beech Grove Shelter, travels through dense forest and ends in the Class A campground between campsites #19 and #20.
- 7. MODERATE — 1.8 miles. Trail 7 is a loop trail that begins across from the Wolf Cave Parking Lot, travels along the canyon rim before descending toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk, and fishing is permitted on the river.
- 8. ACCESSIBLE — 0.7 mile. Trail 8 is a paved trail that begins in the campground between campsites #14 and #15 and proceeds through woodlands, Pine Bluff Picnic Area ending at the Pool and Concession Stand.
- 9. EASY — 1.2 miles. Trail 9 is a loop trail that begins in the Deer Run Parking area and loops through hardwood forest, old farm fields and crosses the bridle trail twice before ending in the Deer Run area.
- 10. MODERATE— 0.7 miles. Trail 10 begins across McCormick’s Creek from the Old State House Quarry and proceeds upstream to the Trail 3 Stairway that leads out of the canyon.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

**CAMPING**— Campground equipped with modern restrooms, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to two weeks. Both Class A (electric) and Class C sites are available. *Note: Class C sites are primitive.* Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**CLASS C & YOUTH TENT CAMPING** — Class C sites and Youth Tent are primitive. No showers or modern restrooms available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**FAMILY CABINS** — Each cabin accommodates a maximum of six people and has a living area, bedroom, bathroom, screened-in porch and kitchen. Cabin #7 is accessible. Pets are not permitted in the cabin area. Open April - October. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**GROUP CAMPS** — McCormick’s Creek State Park features two group camps, Camp McCormick and Camp NaWaKwa. Each camp contains four sleeping barracks with the capacity of twenty-five persons each, a large capacity dining hall/kitchen accomodating 100 people in each camp, modern shower house located in center of both camps. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

**HIKING** — 10.7 miles of easy to rugged trails.

**INN**—All rooms have a private bath, telephone, color TV, air conditioning. Dining room is open to public serving a complete daily menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Also, Sunday dinners, banquets and conference facilities are available. Inn Swimming pool (outdoor) available to inn guests. No pets allowed. Reservation are available through the Inns Reservation System.

**INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE** — Open year 'round, and designed on a 'Please Touch - Gently' theme, it includes natural history exhibits, nature games and quizzes, and a full range of naturalist-led activities available free of charge to park visitors. A self-guiding nature trail lies just behind the center. Program shchedules are available by visiting the website at [www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/) or call (812) 829-4344.

**PICNIC AREAS** — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields. In addition, McCormick’s Creek has 7 open shelters and 3 recreation buildings. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

**RECREATION CENTER** — Offers a unique outlet for leisure activity within the park. Complete facilities include racquetball, handball, basketball, volleyball and shuffleboard courts, table tennis and a game room.

**SADDLE BARN** — Trail rides and Hayrides offered. For reservation information contact the McCormick’s Creek Stables at (812) 829-8848

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do NOT injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO<sub>2</sub> gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-strung and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times designated by the department.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Bicycles must be used on roadways and are not allowed on hiking trails.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS

**SWIMMING** — Park pool open the Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. For Swimming availability contact the park office.

**TENNIS COURTS** — Lighted for night playing. Located behind Canyon Inn.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forest can be made by going online or use the toll free number.



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Open to the Public

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Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**  
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Online: **www.indianainns.com**

**www.camp.IN.gov**  
**1-866-6campIN**  
(1-866-622-6746)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Write:** McCormick's Creek State Park  
Route 5, Box 282, St. Rd. 46 East  
Spencer, Indiana 47460

**Call:** (812) 829-2235  
Nature Center Information

**Call:** (812) 829-4344  
Saddle Barn Information

**Call:** (812) 829-8848

**DNR**  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
**www.IN.gov/dnr**



SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

# McCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK



Long before pioneers entered the area now known as McCormick's Creek, the Miami Indians roamed the land. The Indians had camps along the banks of the White River to the north and south, but what is now state park land was far too rugged, filled with canyons and ravines, to invite settlement. Instead, it became a hunting ground, offering deer, squirrel, grouse, and fish from its deep woods and clear streams. It wasn't until 1816 that the first settler laid claim to the area, when John McCormick homesteaded nearly one hundred acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. In those days it was common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, and thus McCormick’s Creek received its name.

Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed their livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, although the water level and

force was never great enough to make the ventures profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran into problems trying to get the cut rock across the river to the railroad line on the other side.

The turning point in the McCormick's Creek history came in 1888 when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkewalter, a physician who was interested in the scenic and restful qualities of the site. Dr. Denkewalter felt the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs would be the perfect location to build a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy and the weary to 'get away from it all' and recuperate. The original sanitarium, built on the present-day Canyon Inn site, was a white-sided structure with long porches on every side. It offered guests plenty of access to the loveliness of the well-landscaped grounds where Denkewalter delighted in planting a variety of trees and shrubs. Meanwhile, local residents continued to picnic and hike along the canyon, making the spot a favorite of everyone for rest and relaxation.

With the death of Dr. Denkewalter in 1914, his estate went up for sale at a land auction. Both Owen County and the State of Indiana were interested in maintaining McCormick’s Creek in its park-like setting, and so the land was purchased. McCormick's Creek State Park was dedicated as Indiana's first state park on July 4, 1916, as part of the state's centennial celebration.

Canyon Inn opened its doors in the old sanitarium building. A few years later in the early 1920's, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Subsequent changes have brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the Inn today still rests on the original foundations of the Denkewalter sanitarium.

Originally a little over 350 acres in size, McCormick's Creek State Park has grown to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farms and homesteads as they come up for sale. Much of the park's building improvements came in the 1930's when the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) was in the park. The CCC men constructed most of the shelter houses, the old stone bridge, and the firetower. Another surge of development came in the early 1970's when the present campgrounds, nature center and swimming pool were added. Today the park is a delightful combination of history set in up-to-date modern surroundings.